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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Bulgarian Army Maneuvers and Army Resistance

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1. Units of the 14th Infantry Division have been engaged in maneuvers in the regions of Koker Tepe/~~sic~~ Tsil Tepe/~~sic~~ Madendag/~~sic~~ Yanuk Tepe, Kara Bair, and Yel Tepe/~~sic~~ south of Plovdiv, since 28 Apr 54. Maneuvers were still in progress in May 1954.
2. Units of the division known to have taken part include the 6th, 27th, and 32nd Infantry Regiments, the 16th and 59th Motorized Regiments, and the 5th Artillery Regiment.
3. Reconnaissance aircraft participated in the maneuvers, but the units from which they came have not been identified.
4. Either disaffection exists in the army itself, or else resistance units are working close to army installations. On the night of 30 Apr and 1 May 54 a big depot belonging to III Corps at Kara Bunar (west of Novo Zagora) blew up. The explosion took place in the early hours of the morning. Fire destroyed most of the depot. Eight guards and some others have been arrested for sabotage. On 3 May 54, nationalists blew up the gasoline depot near Elena, located 45 kilometers from the permanent supply center for motorized army units.
5. The losses will be to some degree made good by shipments from tankers unloading gasoline at Petrovo/~~sic~~, south of Varna (Stalin) on 2, 3 and 4 May 54. This was stored in underground depots south of Kilkovo, 32 kilometers from the coast. Tractors and automobiles for the Bulgarian Army reached the port of Mesevna/~~sic~~ on 5 May re. The automobiles were five-ton armored cars. They were taken over by a Soviet detachment and a larger Bulgarian detachment. They are at the moment still near the port.

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6. Efforts of Bulgarians to escape from the country still continue, sometimes with tragic results. In early May 1954, Georgi Nikolov Nedelkov, aged 27, from Estara Zagora [sic], got across the frontier illegally. When he was 300 meters inside Turkish territory, three Bulgarian frontier guards opened fire and brought him down with a bullet in the head. When, however, the Bulgarian guards crossed into Turkish territory to get the body, the Turkish frontier guards, after proper warnings, opened fire on them. One of the Bulgars was wounded. His companions aided him in returning to Bulgarian territory but they blundered into a mine field and were all three blown up.
7. The disaffection suggested by these incidents is being remedied, in part, by sending Bulgarian students to the USSR. On 3 May 54, high Soviet officials held a meeting to test 3,210 technical students. Of these, 830 came from the higher schools. The group as a whole came from Turnovo, Shumen, Sliven, Yambol, and Stara Zagora. After examination, many of these students will be sent to the USSR for various kinds of specialization. The 830 from the higher schools (or a selection from their number) will be sent to Moscow to attend the school of military aviation.

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